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Message Text

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17
ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01

SCCT-01 ARA-10 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
---------- 101772
R 202031Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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CINCEUR FOR POLLD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 20, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE REPEATED ATTACKS ON EL AL PLANES, ADMITTEDLY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO OFTEN CARRYING AMERICAN PASSENGERS? DO YOU HAVE GREAT CONCERN FOR THAT

A. WELL, I THINK OUR POSITION ON THIS QUESTION OF ATTACKING AIRPLANES AND HIJACKING IS VERY WELL KNOWN. OBVIOUSLY, WE DEPLORE THIS KIND OF A BUSINESS. INSOFAR AS THE INCIDENT INPARISIS CONCERNED AT ORLY OVER THE WEEKEND, WE WERE IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES SOLELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AMERICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED HERE, AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, AS OF THIS TIME, NO AMERICANS WERE.

Q. THAT WAS YOUR SOLE INTEREST, WHETHER AMERICANS WERE ABOARD.
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A. WELL, I THINK ON THIS, FRANKLY OUR POSITION IS VERY, VERY FIRMLY ON THE RECORD ANY TIME THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS. FRANKLY, WHETHER AMERICANS ARE INVOLVED OR NOT, IT IS JUST NOT THETYPE OF WAY TO GET ALONG IN THE WORLD THAT WE CAN CONDONE IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

Q. DOES IT HAVE ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON AN INEXORABLE

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MOVEMENT TOWARD DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIANS?

A. I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THE INEXORABLE MOVEMENT THAT YOU MENTIONED ABOUT DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIANS. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN OUR ATTITUDE THERE.

Q. CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL SITUATION?

A. AS I SAID ON FRIDAY, FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, THAT THE SECRETARY HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INVITATION TO VISIT ISRAEL, BUT THAT NO DATES HAVE BEEN SET. THAT REMAINS THE SAME TODAY. WITH REGARD TO A VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA THAT WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT FOR THE LAST TEN DAYS OR TWO WEEKS, THERE ARE NO FIRM DATES ON THAT, AND I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING ON THAT FAIRLY SOON.

Q. OF COURSE RECOGNIZING, AS WE ALWAYS DO, THERE IS A LONG REACH BETWEEN FIXED PWANS AND THE BEGINNING OF MAKING PLANS, HAS HE RECEIVED ANY INVITATION COMPARABLE TO THE ISRAELI INVITATION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE HAS.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK IF EGYPT OR ANY OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE INVITED HIM, AND, OF COURSE, WHETHER HE HAS ACCEPTED, IN PRINCIPLE, THE INVITATION, LEAVING ASIDE THE FIXING OF A FIRM DATE?

A. SURE. LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET SOMETHING ON THAT.

Q. HAS AMBASSADOR EILTS RETURNED TO CAIRO?
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A. YES. HE LEFT ON SUNDAY. I BELIEVE HE IS DUE BACK TODAY IN CAIRO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NNN

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